

COUNTRY DATA: SPAIN: Information from the CIA World Factbook

INTRODUCTION

Spain's powerful world empire of the 16th and 17th centuries ultimately yielded command of the seas to England. Subsequent failure to embrace the mercantile and industrial revolutions caused the country to fall behind Britain, France, and Germany in economic and political power. Spain remained neutral in World Wars I and II but suffered through a devastating civil war (1936-39). A peaceful transition to democracy following the death of dictator Francisco FRANCO in 1975, and rapid economic modernization (Spain joined the EU in 1986) gave Spain a dynamic and rapidly growing economy and made it a global champion of freedom and human rights. The government continues to battle the Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) terrorist organization, but its major focus for the immediate future will be on measures to reverse the severe economic recession that started in mid-2008.

GEOGRAPHY

Location	Southwestern Europe, bordering the Bay of Biscay, Mediterranean Sea, North Atlantic Ocean, and Pyrenees Mountains, southwest of France
Area	505,370 sq km
Climate	temperate; clear, hot summers in interior, more moderate and cloudy along coast; cloudy, cold winters in interior, partly cloudy and cool along coast
Natural Resources	coal, lignite, iron ore, copper, lead, zinc, uranium, tungsten, mercury, pyrites, magnesite, fluorspar, gypsum, sepiolite, kaolin, potash, hydropower, arable land
Total Renewable Water Resources	111.1 cu km (2005)
Freshwater Withdrawal	total: 37.22 cu km/yr (13%/19%/68%) per capita: 864 cu m/yr (2002)
Natural Hazards	periodic droughts, occasional flooding volcanism: Spain experiences volcanic activity in the Canary Islands, located off Africa's northwest coast; Teide (elev. 3,715 m, 12,188 ft) has been deemed a "Decade Volcano" by the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior, worthy of study due to its explosive history and close proximity to human populations; La Palma (elev. 2,426 m, 7,959 ft), which last erupted in 1971, is the most active of the Canary Islands volcanoes; Lanzarote is the only other historically active volcano
Environmental Issues	pollution of the Mediterranean Sea from raw sewage and effluents from the offshore production of oil and gas; water quality and quantity nationwide; air pollution; deforestation; desertification

PEOPLE

Population	46,505,963 (July 2010 est.)
Ethnic Groups	composite of Mediterranean and Nordic types
Religions	Roman Catholic 94%, other 6%
Languages	Castilian Spanish (official) 74%, Catalan 17%, Galician 7%, Basque 2%, are official regionally

Literacy Rate	97.9%
Major Infectious Diseases	HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS: 140,000 (2007 est.)
GOVERNMENT	
Type	parliamentary monarchy
Independence	1492; the Iberian peninsula was characterized by a variety of independent kingdoms prior to the Muslim occupation that began in the early 8th century A.D. and lasted nearly seven centuries; the small Christian redoubts of the north began the reconquest almost immediately, culminating in the seizure of Granada in 1492; this event completed the unification of several kingdoms and is traditionally considered the forging of present-day Spain
Constitution	approved by legislature 31 October 1978; passed by referendum 6 December 1978; signed by the king 27 December 1978
Legal System	civil law system with regional applications; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations
ECONOMY	
Agricultural Products	grain, vegetables, olives, wine grapes, sugar beets, citrus; beef, pork, poultry, dairy products; fish
Industries	textiles and apparel (including footwear), food and beverages, metals and metal manufactures, chemicals, shipbuilding, automobiles, machine tools, tourism, clay and refractory products, footwear, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment
Import commodities	machinery, motor vehicles; foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals, medicines, other consumer goods
Import Partners	France 19.27%, Germany 11.11%, Portugal 9.21%, Italy 8.24%, UK 6.18% (2009)
Export Commodities	machinery and equipment, fuels, chemicals, semifinished goods, foodstuffs, consumer goods, measuring and medical control instruments
Export Partners	Germany 15.02%, France 12.82%, Italy 7.17%, China 5.8%, Netherlands 5.22%, UK 4.7% (2009)
Per Capita GDP	\$29,300 (2009 est.)
Population below poverty line	19.8% (2005)

*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.